

## ABSTRACT

1       A pay-per-use (PPU) software system uses reads metrics data from one or more  
2 PPU products and transmits the metrics data to a remote location for processing. The PPU  
3 system uses a utility metering appliance that monitors PPU software products on a given  
4 internal network through the use of software metering agents that reside on different  
5 computers. Metric gathering tools are supplied with the PPU software products and are  
6 registered with an agent. The utility metering appliance polls all of the software metering  
7 agents, which collect software metrics data from the registered tools. Each agent  
8 transmits the data back to the utility metering appliance, where it is stored for periodic  
9 transmission to a usage collection and billing system. The usage collection and billing  
10 system then forwards the metrics data to a billing computer so that a bill can be issued to  
11 the software product user. The software metrics data may also be forwarded to a portal  
12 for customer tracking of PPU product usage.